A

WORD in SEASON:

OR,

ADVICE

TO AN

ENGLISHMAN.

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WORD in SEASON:
OR,
ADVICE to an *Engliſhman.*

1. DO *you* ever *think?* Do you ever *conſider?* If not, 'tis high Time you ſhould. *Think* a little, before it is too late. *Conſider* what a State you are in. And not you alone, but our *whole Nation.* We *would* have War. And we have it. And what is the Fruit? Our Armies broken in Pieces; And Thouſands of our Men either kill'd on the Spot or made Priſoners in one Day. Nor is this all. We have now War at our own Doors: Our own Countrymen turning their Swords againſt their Brethren. And have any hitherto been able to ſtand before them? Have they not already ſeiz'd upon one whole Kingdom? Friend, either *think* now, or ſleep on and take your Reſt, till you drop into the Pit where you will ſleep no more!

2. *Think*, what is likely to follow, if an Army of *French* alſo, ſhould blow the Trumpet in our Land? What Deſolation may we not then expect? What a wide-ſpread *Field of Blood?* And what can the End of theſe Things be? If they prevail, what but *Popery* and *Slavery?* Do you know what the Spirit of *Popery* is? Did you never hear of that Queen *Mary*'s Reign?

And of the Holy Men who were then burnt alive by the *Papiſts*, becauſe they did not dare to do as they did? To worſhip Angels and Saints; to pray to the Virgin *Mary*; to bow down to Images, and the like. If we had a King of this Spirit, whoſe Life would be ſafe? At leaſt, what honeſt Man's? A Knave indeed may turn with the Times. But what a dreadful Thing would this be to a Man of Conſcience? "Either turn, or burn. Either go into that Fire: Or "into the Fire that *never ſhall be quenched.*"

3. And can you dream that your *Property* would be any ſafer than your *Conſcience?* Nay, how ſhould that be? Nothing is plainer than that the Pretender cannot be King of *England*, unleſs it be by Conqueſt. But every Conqueror may do what he will. The Laws of the Land are no Laws to Him. And who can doubt, but one who ſhould conquer *England* by the Aſſiſtance of *France*, would copy after the *French* Rules of Government?

4. Nay farther; Think ſeriouſly with yourſelf, what does the King of *France* care for the *Pretender?* No more than he does for *you* or *me*. Is not his Aim then plainly this? Juſt to keep him from ſinking, till the *Engliſh* on both Sides have cut one another in Pieces, and then to pour in with a freſh Army, and take the Kingdom for himſelf.

5. How dreadful then is the Condition wherein we ſtand? On the very Brink of utter Deſtruction! But why are we thus? I am afraid the Anſwer is too plain, to every conſiderate Man. Becauſe of our Sins; becauſe we have well-nigh *fill'd up the Meaſure of our Iniquities*. For, what Wickedneſs is there under Heaven, that is not found among us at this Day? Not to inſiſt on the Sabbath-breaking in every Corner of our Land; the Thefts, Cheating, Fraud, Extortion; the Injuſtice, Violence, Oppreſſion; the Lying and Diſſimulation; the Robberies, Sodomies and Murders (which, with a thouſand unnamed Villanies are common to us and our Neighbour *Chriſtians* of *Holland*,

France and *Germany*,) conſider over and above, what a plentiful Harveſt we have of Wickedneſs almoſt peculiar to ourſelves? For who can vie with us in the Direction of Courts of *Juſtice?* In the Management of *Public Charities?* Or in the accompliſhed, bare-faced Wickedneſs, which ſo abounds in our *Priſons*, and *Fleets* and *Armies?* Who in *Europe* can compare with the Sloth, Lazineſs, Luxury and Effeminacy of the *Engliſh Gentry?* Or with the Drunkenneſs, and ſtupid, ſenſeleſs Curſing and Swearing, which are daily ſeen and heard in our *Streets?* One great Inlet, no doubt, to that Flood of Perjury, which ſo increaſes among us Day by Day: The like whereunto is not to be found in any other Part of the habitable Earth.

6. Add to all theſe (what is indeed the Source as well as Completion of all) That open and profeſs'd DEISM and Rejection of the Goſpel, that public avowed Apoſtaſy from the Chriſtian Faith, which reigns among the Rich and Great, and hath ſpread from them to all Ranks and Orders of Men (the Vulgar themſelves not excepted) and made us a People fitted for the *Deſtroyer of the Gentiles.*

7. Becauſe of theſe Sins is this Evil come upon us. For (whether you are aware of it, or no) there is a GOD: A GOD, who though he ſits upon the Circle of the Heavens, ſees and knows all that is done upon Earth. And this GOD is Holy; He does not love Sin: He is juſt, rendering to all their Due. And He is Strong; there is none able to withſtand Him: He hath all Power in Heaven and in Earth. He is patient indeed, and ſuffers long; but he will at laſt repay the Wicked to his Face. He often does ſo in this World; eſpecially, when a whole Nation is openly and inſolently wicked. Then doth GOD *ariſe and maintain his own Cauſe*; then doth he terribly ſhew both his Juſtice and Power: That if theſe will not repent, yet others may fear, and flee from the Wrath to come.

8. There hath been among them that feared GOD. a general Expectation for many Years, that the Time

was

was coming, when GOD would thus ariſe, to be avenged of this ſinful Nation. At length the Time is come. The Patience of GOD, long provoked, gives Place to Juſtice. The Windows of Heaven begin to be opened, to rain down Judgments on the Earth. And yet, with what Tenderneſs does he proceed? In the Midſt of Wrath remembering Mercy. By how ſlow Degrees does his Vengeance move! Nor does his whole Diſpleaſure yet ariſe.

9. Brethren, Countrymen, Engliſhmen, What ſhall we do? To day! while it is called to day! Before the Seaſon of Mercy is quite expired, and our *Deſtruction cometh as a Whirlwind?* Which Way can we remove the Evils we feel? Which Way prevent thoſe we fear? Is there any better Way, than the making GOD our Friend? The ſecuring his Help againſt our Enemies? Other Helps are little worth. We ſee *Armies* may be deſtroyed, or even flee away from Old Men and Children. *Fleets* may be daſh'd to Pieces in an Hour, and ſunk in the Depth of the Sea. *Allies* may be treacherous, or ſlow, or fooliſh, or weak, or cowardly. But GOD is a Friend who cannot betray, and whom none can either bribe or terrify. And who is wiſe, or ſwift, or ſtrong like him? Therefore, whatever we do, let us make GOD our Friend. Let us with all Speed remove the Cauſe of his Anger. Let us caſt away our Sins. Then ſhall his Love have free Courſe, and he will ſend us Help, ſufficient Help againſt all our Enemies.

10. Come; will *You* begin? Will *You*, by the Grace of GOD, amend *One*, and that without Delay? Firſt then, *Own* thoſe Sins which have long cried for Vengeance in the Ears of GOD. *Confeſs*, that we all (and you in particular) deſerve for our Inward and Outward Abominations, not only to be ſwept from the Face of the Earth, but to ſuffer the Vengeance of Eternal Fire. Never aim at *excuſing* either yourſelf or others. Let your Mouth be ſtopt. Plead guilty before GOD. Above all, *own* that *Impudence*

of

of Wickedneſs, that utter *Careleſſneſs*, that *Pert* Stupidity, which is hardly to be found in any Part of the Earth, (at leaſt, not in ſuch a Degree) except in *England*. Do you not know what I mean? You was not long ſince praying to GOD, "for Damnation upon "your own Soul." One who has heard you, ſaid, "Is that right? Does not GOD hear? What if he "takes you at your Word?" You replied with equal Impudence and Ignorance, "What, are *You a Me-*"*thodiſt?*" What if he is a *Turk?* Muſt thou therefore be a *Heathen?*—GOD humble thy brutiſh, deviliſh Spirit.

11. Lay thee in the Duſt, for this and for all thy Sins. Let thy Laughter be turned into Heavineſs; thy Joy into Mourning; thy ſenſeleſs Jollity and Mirth, into Sorrow and Brokenneſs of Heart. This is no Time to eat and drink and riſe up to play; but to afflict thy Soul before the Lord. Deſire of GOD, a deep piercing Senſe of the enormous Sins of the Nation, and of thy own. Remember that great Example: How when the *King of Nineveh* was warned of the near-approaching Vengeance of GOD, he *cauſed it to be proclaim'd, Let none taſte any Thing, let them not feed, nor drink Water. But let them be covered with Sackcloth, and cry mightily to GOD; yea let them turn every one from his Evil Way; who can tell, if GOD will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce Anger, that we periſh not*, JONAH 3.

12. Let them *turn* every one from his Evil Way. Ceaſe to do Evil. Learn to do well. And ſee that this Reformation be *Univerſal:* For there is no ſerving GOD by Halves. Avoid *all* Evil, and do *all* Good unto *all* Men; elſe you only deceive your own Soul. See alſo, that it be from the *Heart*. Lay the Axe to the Root of the Tree. Cut up, by the Grace of GOD, Evil Deſire, Pride, Anger, Unbelief. Let this be your continual Prayer to GOD, the Prayer of your Heart, (as well as Lips) "Lord, I *would* be-"lieve: Help thou mine Unbelief! Give me the

"Faith

" Faith that worketh by Love. *The Life which I*
" *now live*, let me *live by Faith in the Son of* GOD.
" Let me *ſo* believe, that I may *love thee, with all*
" *my Heart and Mind, and Soul, and Strength!* And
" that I may love every Child of Man, even *as thou*
" *haſt loved us!* Let me daily *add to my Faith, Cou-*
" *rage, Knowledge, Temperance, Patience, Brotherly*
" *Kindneſs, Charity: That ſo an Entrance may be miniſ-*
" *tred to me abundantly, into the everlaſting Kingdom of*
" *our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt!*"

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1. REgard, Thou righteous GOD and true,
Regard thy weeping People's Prayer,
Before the Sword our Land go thro',
Before thy lateſt Plague we bear;
Let all to Thee their Smiter turn,
Let all beneath thine Anger mourn.

2. The Sword which firſt bereav'd abroad
We now within our Borders ſee,
We ſee, but ſlight thy Nearer Rod,
So oft ſo kindly warn'd by Thee;
We ſtill thy Warning Love deſpiſe,
And dare thine utmoſt Wrath to riſe.

3. Yet for the Faithful Remnant's ſake,
Thine utmoſt Wrath a While defer,
If haply we at laſt may wake,
And trembling at Deſtruction near
The Cauſe of all our Evils own,
And leave the Sins for which we groan.

4. Or if the Wicked will not mourn,
And 'ſcape the long-ſuſpended Blow,
Yet ſhall it to thy Glory turn,
Yet ſhall they all thy Patience know,
Thy ſlighted Love and Mercy clear,
And vindicate thy Juſtice here.

For

For His Majesty King *GEORGE.*

1. IMmortal King of Kings,
Whose Favour or whose Frown,
Monarchs and States to Honour brings,
Or turns them upside down;
To Thee in Danger's Hour
We for our Sovereign cry,
Protect Him by Thy gracious Power,
And set Him up on high.

2. Not by a mighty Host
Can he deliver'd be,
Let others in their Numbers trust,
We look, O Lord, to Thee:
Help to thy Servant send,
And strengthen from above,
And still thy Minister defend
By Thine Almighty Love.

3. The Spirit of thy Grace
The Heavenly Unction shed,
And Hosts of Guardian Angels place
A round his Sacred Head;
Confound whoe'er oppose,
Or force them to retire;
Be Thou a Tower against his Foes,
Be Thou a Wall of Fire.

4. O bring Him out of all
His *sanctify'd* Distress,
And by his Name thy Servant call,
And fill Him with thy Peace;
Shew Him, Almighty LORD,
That Thou *His* Saviour art,
And speak the Soul-converting Word,
My Son, give me Thy Heart.

FINIS.